

Statesville, N. C. Oct 22 1878

Prof Asa Gray Return to AG

Dear Sir

At the request of my friend Mr W Congdon East Greenwich, R.I. I send by mail, the only specimen I have of the probable *Shortia galacifolia* Torr & G. for your identification, and wish the same to be returned in order, that my son, 13 years old may be able to identify the plant next season, who obtained it about 18 months ago, in McDowell Co N.C. should he succeed in finding any more specimens, you shall certainly be the recipient of a specimen - of course I shall be compelled to send ^{him} up in that county, at a considerable expense, but this is a matter of no importance to me as soon as he comes from school, I will give

more particulars, he could have got 6 or 8 specimens
at the time, but did not, he supposing that I did not
need them. I called his attention to the plant at the
time, that it was a very rare plant - and had he been
in the locality when he brought the 2 plants, I would
have had him search for the others -

Since writing the above, my son has returned from
School. Says he found it about the 25th May in McQuade
County on the side of a high dry open hill, which
is near a branch - he says he knows exactly the
place and can next season obtain them, only 1 or 2
stems in the place - I shall send him next season
to collect them, if they are rare -

Yours truly

M E Hyams